



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR



2050 Hammonds Plains Road  
Hammonds Plains, NS  
B4B 1P3

October 2023, Volume 84 Number 8

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

**It is soon time to renew your membership for 2024.  
Either electronically in person or by snail mail.**

HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

## Executive

President - John Bignell, VE1JMB	223-1945	<a href="mailto:johnmbignell@gmail.com">johnmbignell@gmail.com</a>
First V.P. - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE	292-9924	<a href="mailto:VE1PYE@bellaliant.net">VE1PYE@bellaliant.net</a>
2nd V.P. - Ritchie Long, VE1RL	410-7167	<a href="mailto:VE1RPL@gmail.com">VE1RPL@gmail.com</a>
Secretary - Ray Armstrong, VA1RAY		<a href="mailto:VA1RAY@outlook.com">VA1RAY@outlook.com</a>
Treasurer - Alastair Cox, VE1PAB		<a href="mailto:coxaf@eastlink.ca">coxaf@eastlink.ca</a>
Member-at-Large: - Bill Simm, VA1ALW		<a href="mailto:williamrham@live.ca">williamrham@live.ca</a>
Station Manager: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR		<a href="mailto:don_trotter@hotmail.com">don_trotter@hotmail.com</a>
Past President - Brian Allen, VA1CC	489-4656	<a href="mailto:basailor@eastlink.ca">basailor@eastlink.ca</a>
Director Emeritus - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	<a href="mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca">bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca</a>

## Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government & Media Relations - Gary Murphy VA1GGM, 461-9416

QSL Bureau Mgr - Roger Stein, VA1RST	403-3738	<a href="mailto:garygmurphy@gmail.com">garygmurphy@gmail.com</a>
EMO Coordinator - David George, VE1AJP	466-8723	<a href="mailto:burch.craft@gmail.com">burch.craft@gmail.com</a>
EMO Trailer coordinator - VACANT		<a href="mailto:dgeorge@dal.ca">dgeorge@dal.ca</a>
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	<a href="mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca">bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Reflector Hardcopy Dist. - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF	240-4302	<a href="mailto:ve1jhf@gmail.com">ve1jhf@gmail.com</a>
Membership - Tim Delaney, VA1TIM	890-6772	<a href="mailto:va1tim@rac.ca">va1tim@rac.ca</a>
Reflector PDF Dist. - Tim Delaney, VA1TIM		<a href="mailto:va1tim@rac.ca">va1tim@rac.ca</a>
Web site content Manager - John Bignell, VE1JMB		<a href="mailto:johnmbignell@gmail.com">johnmbignell@gmail.com</a>

Basic ham course - **Vacant**

2024 Flea Market Chair - **Vacant**

2024 Field Day Coordinator - **Vacant**

Safety Officer - Malcolm MacDonald, VA1MMD	<a href="mailto:malcolmmmd1@gmail.com">malcolmmmd1@gmail.com</a>
VA1MMA Project Manager - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	<a href="mailto:rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca">rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
NSARA Director - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE	292-9924 <a href="mailto:VE1PYE@bellaliant.net">VE1PYE@bellaliant.net</a>
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH	

## Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Al Penny, VO1NO	<a href="mailto:dir.atlantic@rac.ca">dir.atlantic@rac.ca</a>
RAC Section Manager - Dave Hull, VE1HUL	<a href="mailto:d.hull@ns.sympatico.ca">d.hull@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
RAC Assistant Director for HRM - John Bignell, VE1JMB	<a href="mailto:johnmbignell@gmail.com">johnmbignell@gmail.com</a>

All phone numbers must be preceded by area code 902 when dialling, unless otherwise indicated

**The October 2023 General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday October 18 at 1900 . The method (**hybrid - in person at the club and virtual**) the details will be sent in an e-mail. Check your e-mail for details as the date approaches. Also check the web site for any other updates.

## Presentation will be:

Rich Pierik VE1RPX going to do a talk on his experiences with POTA, more than 20,000 QSOs.

**Guests are welcome in person or need to send an e-mail to the club to be on the ZOOM invitee list.**

*I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted pay checks.*

Photos in this edition are by  
Bill, VE1MR and  
John, VE1JMB

**Deadline for submissions to the November Reflector is Saturday November 4, 2023.**

## Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. **We need more net controllers.** If you want to join, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Oct. 15	Jeremy	VE1LAI
Oct. 22	Ken	VE1PDL
Oct. 29	Cam	VE1BIT
Nov. 5	Earl	VE1EPJ
Nov. 12	Robert	VE1RSG



## ATTENTION

We are still in need of net controllers. The net is excellent practice for running an emergency net and usually takes about 20 or 30 minutes. Contact Bill, VE1MR to join the list.

[bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca)

*If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:  
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM  
CLUB REPEATERS:  
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access and TX tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5  
PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz  
LAN NODE

*Events for Your Calendar*

October 20-23 – Jamboree on the  
Air with Scouts Canada

October 21 – Greenwood Flea  
Market

Nov. 15 – HARC Annual General  
Meeting

**The membership year is from  
January 1 to December 31.**

**Membership options:**

- \* Full Member, must be a licensed  
Amateur \$30.00
- \* Associate member  
(Non Voting) \$20.00
- \* Family membership \$30.00 + \$20.00  
each additional licensed Amateur.

If you want the newsletter mailed to  
your home **there is an additional cost  
of \$10.00 to the regular  
membership fee structure above.**

**All members receive the news-  
letter, which is also available on  
the HARC website.**

**All full members will be members of  
NSARA**

Do you have pictures, interesting or  
funny radio-related story, article or  
news you would like to share via  
the HARC Reflector? Please send  
it/them to Lynn at:

bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

**Please show "For Reflector" on  
the "Subject" line so I don't miss  
it.** Thanks! - ed

**HATS**

From Gary, VA1GGM:

The second and fourth Wednesday  
nights at 1900h on VE1PSR VHF is  
our voice message handling practice  
net.

Check into the Maritime Noon Net,  
week days at 12 noon on the  
Windsor repeater,  
VE1HCA 146.910 – MHz

**TechTalks**

We are starting to think about presentations for the upcoming meetings. If you have ideas or topics, please send them along to the events@halifax-arc.org email address. If you have an interesting topic that you like to present, we'd love to hear from you.

HARC has a stock of **Anderson Powerpole connectors** for sale at \$15 for a bag of 10 - (\$1.50 ea for a red & black connector & contacts for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. If you have not already converted all your gear to Powerpole connectors you should consider doing so. Installation instructions included & are also in the 2012 Callbook.

Contact Fraser, VE1WO – fmac@eastlink.ca

Or Bill, VE1MR – bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca



**GREENWOOD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Annual Ham Radio & Equipment  
FLEA MARKET**

**Date:** 21 OCT 2023 (Saturday)

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Open 8:00 AM To Sellers for set up)

**Place:** Greenwood Community Centre - 110 Church St., Greenwood, NS

**Cost:** Admission is \$5.00. (Tables Free to Sellers)

**GPS Coordinates:** N44° 58.512' W064° 55.612'



**Talk In:** VE1WN 147.240 +  
A GARC Member will  
be on air to answer  
questions and give  
directions.

**Canteen:**  
BBQ Sausage, Hot Dogs,  
Muffins, Cookies, Chips,  
Fruit, Pop, Water, Tea,  
Coffee and Snacks are  
available for purchase.

**Door Prizes and  
Raffle Draw:**  
There will be a **\$100  
Visa Card door prize**,  
various other door  
prizes and a  
**50/50 draw**

**Flea Market:**  
All sorts of Amateur Radios,  
**Computers and Electronics**  
- Sell your old stuff or buy  
new-to-you items.

**To Book Tables Contact:**

Flea Market Coordinator - Carol VE1ICY cfhutchinson@gmail.com

**For Additional Info Contact:** GARC President – Phil Hunter  
VE1PHL garc.ve1wn@gmail.com

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for October 2023****A Trip Down Memory Lane: Igniting the Spark of Amateur Radio**

I've always believed that our memories are not just random events from our past, but markers that help shape our future. As I sit here to pen down my monthly message, I'm transported back to my youth when I was first introduced to the magic of wireless communications.

It was a different era. My parents ran a small motel and campgrounds. We had our fair share of guests, but one guest left an indelible mark on my life – Richard Denman (VE1RDA) from Dartmouth. As a seasonal camper, Mr. Denman wasn't just someone who cherished the beauty of nature; he carried with him the mystique of the airwaves. He passionately showed me how the atmosphere and the time of day played with the radio bands, making them dance to their tunes.

One of my fondest memories was when he set up a Trench Radio or what many know as a Foxhole radio. I was utterly mesmerized, hearing the local AM station without the use of any batteries. It felt like I was tapping into some ancient secret or magic. The universe seemed suddenly more connected. Mr. Denman, with his wisdom and patience, nurtured my curiosity and was the first to suggest I pursue my Ham license. He saw in me a kindred spirit, eager to explore the world of frequencies and signals.

I have included an image of Dick VE1RDA. Who was a member in the late 80s at HARC and myself hidden just behind him.



This past summer, during our 90th celebration, a topic that echoed in our discussions was the importance of the youth and their engagement in amateur radio. The idea of an Amateur Radio summer camp for youth across the country was floated, and it ignited hope and excitement in many of our hearts. Such initiatives have the potential to be the bridge that introduces the magic of wireless communication to the next generation.

As the proud president of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, I often wonder, how can we, as a collective, inspire the next generation the way Mr. Denman did for me? Each one of us has a story, an individual who ignited that spark within us. Isn't it time we become that beacon for someone else?

As we charter our course forward, I urge all members to share our incredible hobby with both the young and old. There's a world out there, hungry to learn and eager to connect in ways beyond smartphones and the internet. They are interested in the authentic, thrilling world of wireless communication and the rewarding hobby of amateur radio.

Let's light the way and continue the legacy. For it's not just about radios and signals, but the stories, friendships, and connections we make along the way.

Respectfully submitted: John Bignell, VE1JMB – PRESIDENT- HARC

*These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.*

ATTORNEY: The youngest son,  
the 20-year-old, how old is he?  
WITNESS: He's 20,  
much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?  
WITNESS: July 18th.  
ATTORNEY: What year?  
WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?  
WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2023**

1. Welcome to the HARC monthly meeting for September 20, 2023. Meeting called to order at 1910 by Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President who chaired for John Bignell, President who was absent.

**2. Acceptance of the Agenda:**

Acceptance of Agenda for September General Meeting:  
Motion by Ritchie, VE1RL  
Second by Ray, VA1RAY  
Motion passed by vote

**3. Approval of the Minutes:**

Acceptance of Minutes for June General Meeting:  
Motion by Roger, VA1RST  
Second by Bill, VE1MR  
Motion passed by vote

**4. Report of any Silent Keys:**

David Currie, VE9DAC  
Tilley NB June 22  
Moe Brehaut, VE1AEM  
Kentville NS June 22  
Ralph Shaw, VE1ZT  
Chester Basin NS June 25  
Wallace Buchanan, VE1WB  
Sandy Point NS July 2  
Russell Canning, VE1RC  
Trenton NS July 10  
Barry Whynot, VE1BAW  
Milton NS July 13  
Ernest Barthe, VE9YN  
Dalhousie NB July 19  
Andre J Chiasson, VE9AC  
Moncton NB August 22  
Gordon G Ratto, VE1PO  
Halifax NS August 24

5. **Correspondence:** Nothing to report.

**6. President's Report:**

Absent, notes read by Jason  
- Summary of the past year  
- Current activities and projects going on  
- Some work parties coming up for tower and satellite antenna work

**7. Treasurer's Report:**

Alastair, VE1PAB gave a detailed

report on the club finances including revenue and expenses as well as opening and closing bank balances

Acceptance of Treasurer Report

Motion by Ritchie, VE1RL

Second by Brian, VA1CC

Motion passed by vote

This is the last month of our fiscal year. Anyone that has receipts to be reimbursed for or are sitting on cash, please get it to me this week.

**8. Station Managers Report:**

Don, VE1DTR – Have not had a chance to get in to check the aftermath of the cable installation for satellite antenna, it's been reported that it needs to be cleaned up in a substantial way. (This has been cleaned up this evening by Fraser, VE1WO who brought in his shop vac.) Keith Bruce has donated a 7U wall mount rack for us to put in the radio room. This will get a fair amount of equipment off the tables. We will have to figure out a spot for it and what will go on it. Certainly the remote station will go in it. We have repurposed one of the donated laptops that John acquired. Keith has provided a hard disk for it.

**9. Education Report:**

Jason, VE1PYE – Study groups for Saturdays. The next basic course starts next Sunday, so think we are looking at having a study group on Saturdays. How are we going to advertise this and do we have interest. No sense doing it unless people know about it and want to come. I can drop a message to Al Penny to see if anybody in the Halifax area, see if there is any interest at all.

**10. QSL Bureau Report:**

Roger, VA1RST – We are getting a lot of requests coming in for the VC1933 and VC1HARC90 call sign QSL cards. Once the cards come in from the Ukraine, we will get them addressed and sent out. Where we get a self addressed stamped envelope we will send it directly otherwise we will send out a bundle to the outgoing QSL

Bureau

**11. HATS/SAR report:**

**HATS:**

Gary, VA1GGM – Gary was absent.

**SAR:**

David, VE1AJP was absent but sent a report to be read by the Secretary. Search and Rescue has been extremely busy this past summer. It all started on May 28<sup>th</sup> with the Hammonds Plains fire. We were dispatched to assist with evacuations ahead of the flames. We were initially staged at the Irving Service station at Pockwock and Hammonds Plains Road with the fire department. Suddenly, the fire fighters jumped into their vehicles and booted out of there. Someone yelled to us that the fire was heading that way and we thought better of standing around a gasoline filled storage facility. We made haste out of there as well. We did 13 operational periods there initially evacuating neighbourhoods, then blocking roads.

Starting in July with the historic rainfall on Friday July 21<sup>st</sup>, we removed 25 patrons out of Dooleys Tavern at the Bedford Mall using our rescue boat. The current was too strong for people to wade across the parking lot. We then went on to assist with evacuations at one of the apartment buildings behind the mall. The rocks that were washed onto the roadways were extremely sharp. I had a flat tire when I got to the mall, our rescue boat trailer had a flat tire as well as several other members of the team through the weekend. My wife had a flat tire the next day on her vehicle.

I guess inflation hits everyone hard. Sorry, had to sneak that one in there...

The next day we were assigned first to Mount Uniacke to check some of the sunken cars along the 101 highway. Shortly after, we were redirected to Windsor to standby in case one of the

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Continued from page 4)

dams in St. Croix let go. Fortunately, everything held. There was no direct route to Winsdor so we had to snake around lots of backroads in order to get there.

On Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> we were assigned to the Gold River incident where three tubers thought it would be fun to go down the river in an assortment of inflatable water toys. They were immediately tossed out of their inflatables. Two made it to shore but one did not. Our searchers, drone unit and rescue boat with Side Scan Sonar were brought into operation over the next two days. It was a person walking their dog early in the morning that found the body a couple days later.

On Monday July 25<sup>th</sup> we were assigned to the incident in West Hants for the 4 people who were washed away in the floods there. The conditions were brutal with the heat and humidity. The dyke areas were flooded and searchers in the area were up to their knees in all the muck and debris. The muck was considered hazardous, and the searchers had to be decontaminated after getting out of it. Consider that the floods went through peoples' yards where many had small farm operations going. The dykes were filled with dead rats, chickens, cows, manure, fertilizers and assorted oil, gas, and diesel products. It was quite the mess. We were there for a week looking but the conditions were too poor to search in and water needed to recede before we could continue. It was shortly after that where the body of the missing youth was recovered 75 kms away in Advocate Harbour by a person walking their dog. Although a tragedy, we were so glad that the missing could be reunited with their families.

We had two incidents with successful finds in August ending with

participation in the Swiss Air Memorials in September.

During Hurricane Lee we did wellness checks for the homeless in our tent cities in Halifax, Dartmouth, and Sackville. Crews were out Friday night and Saturday afternoon checking on folks and offering transportation to some of the various shelters. Interesting that we transported several folks with their caged animals as well. It was a rough night for those out in tents.

Respectfully submitted by David George VE1AJP.

## **12. Other Reports:**

### **MMA:**

Gord, VE1GVY – We have gained a couple new volunteers over the last two weeks and we have our schedule being built and about to be sent out for the month of October. I believe we will conclude around the end of October or sometime early November. That is moving well. Have been doing some chatting with Bruce and Ken about what's on the go with the Acadia. I like how Bruce is going along with that and he is keeping me well informed. Very satisfied how the team is working together and filling in for each other and making sure the Museum is well manned. Thank you guys for your flexibility in making the schedule work at last minute.

### **CW Club:**

Gord, VE1GVY – As for the CW classes are concerned, subject to the members of the Basic class, I am going to shift the basic to two classes a month, maybe 4 so that the group can reach their goal a little sooner. The Basic class is doing rather well and we are about 2/3 of the way through the alphabet at the moment. As for the Advanced class, it's some hard to get these guys to turn on the radio and make some QSOs but we are working our way through it. Yours truly just got 172 countries confirmed last night.

I am tickled pink. That's it for me with a state of the union with respect to the CW class and MMA.

### **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Wrap up – Ritchie, VE1RL

We had a great series of presentations, if you have not seen them, you can go to the RAC Youtube channel and search for their 2023 AGM. We had 11 speakers, 9 of which are either club members or past club members as in the case of Gerry Hull.

Two things, as Roger pointed out, we are still waiting on the QSL cards to come from the Ukraine. Once they are in, we are going to have a QSL scribing party. We have about 700 contacts made with the special call signs. We will also have certificates to give out to anyone who used the call signs as well.

The big news is, we had the door prizes. The FT70 handheld went to Jennifer Richardson, Ed Richardson's wife, he is from Saskatchewan. He was one of the RAC members, she bought a ticket for the gala and she won the door prize.

The FT65R was won by Rick Roderick who is the president of the ARRL. He gave me a note saying that as the president of the ARRL he was not allowed to accept any awards and asked us to redraw. I have the bucket and the tickets of all that were there. I thought we could draw for it tonight.

Al Masse VE3CWP was drawn from the bucket. He is the brand new North Eastern director with RAC. We will let him know via email and get the radio off to him.

### **Old Business:**

Radio Room cleanup:

It got vacuumed tonight.... after the mess made from installing the new cables for the satellite station from the tower. There are some missing tiles as well.

(Continued on page 6)

*(Continued from page 5)***Repeater Trailer**

Ken, VE1PDL – I have the trailer here, have had a brief look at the generator. It will start and run as long as you hold the key, have cleaned the carburetor and checked things out as far as the engine goes everything seems fine. Now that it is not as bright out I can see a fault light on which indicates there is a short in the generator itself or the wiring. I will have to take it out and maybe with the heat pump in the shop get it dried out and see if it clears. Failing that, we will have to take it to a Honda dealer and have it checked out. Other than that, the trailer is ready and checked out for inspection, I have been dragging my toes a bit on getting the guy here to put the sticker on it as each month that passes we gain a month for the safety.

**Satellite Tower**

Bill, VE1MR – Don Mosher, Keith Sheppard and Wayne VE1WPH ran the cables across from the radio room to the outside and down a conduit into a box and that's as far as they got that I know of. They did get a leader cable across to string the other cables on. We put the rotators on and aligned them we hope. We just need to hook them up in the box on the wall. I have checked out the antennas and they are fine. We just need to determine the tail length and the down lead length. We need to put a preamp on the tower for 2m, the 70cm preamp is mounted on the antenna. Just a matter of getting them all on there.

**New Business:**

Jamboree On The Air – To be held on

October 21, same day as Greenwood Flea Market. Looking for volunteers to setup for this.

**Appointment of Auditor:**

Motion to appoint Ken, VE1PDL as auditor

Motion by Dick, VE1AI

Second by Bill, VE1MR

Motion carried by vote

**Nomination Committee**

We normally have three people do this.

Motion to appoint Ken, VE1PDL, Scott, VE1QD and Clayton, VE1MJF as the three members of the nominating committee.

Motion by Alastair, VE1PAB

Second by Ray, VA1RAY

Motion carried by vote

**Round Table:**

Bill Dyer, Ritchie Long – If anyone is interested in name tags, we are currently looking for a supplier to have done. Also looking to see how much interest in club shirts, hats, mugs etc.

Send an email to:

events@halifax-arc.org

or contact Bill Dyer:

VE1WPS@gmail.com

or Ritchie info in Reflector

Ritchie – Is HARC an affiliate member with RAC? This came up a couple times as the 90<sup>th</sup> conference. This has not been paid this year or last year but is something that should be done. Alastair will sort this out and get it paid

Bill, VE1MR – We need to look at sending a donation to Hamshack.ca given how much we have sold on there. We initially sent him 100 dollars when he started. We should

keep this up with how much the club and members use it.

Alastair to look in to this.

Ken, VE1PDL – We have our Tuesday evening coffee club going and its going very well. We also have a group that is meeting at the Tims on Waverly Road at Montebello. Perhaps we could get something in the Reflector to tel people about it. Ken to send a small write up to Bill for the Reflector.

Scott, VE1QD – I have a little story to tell. During the hurricane, the wind was blowing through the trees here. We have a 7500 watt generator that can plug in to the side of the house in to a separate fuse box getting my station on the air. I thought I would check and see if any noise was being generated into my radio from the generator. There was no noise, beautiful sound. I went on 20CW and heard a Norwegian station calling CQ, LA9GX. Didn't look at all, had the amplifier on I thought, made a quick contact with him, had a nice little chat and then I realized I had worked him with 5 watts with my wire antenna.

Bill- It was brought up by numerous speakers during the conference about growing the club and the hobby. Is there a movement to set up a committee for people to talk to see how we are going to plan things, what kind of ideas we have on this.

Motion to adjourn Don, VE1DTR  
Meeting adjourned at 2029

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Ray Armstrong, VA1RAY, HARC*  
*Secretary*

**NOTICE**

The HARC is looking for a person or persons to take All persons who administer qualification examinations on the responsibilities of Accredited Examiner. Currently Brian, VA1CC is the only examiner giving exams to people in HRM. The club should have at least one more examiner available in HRM and preferably 2 more. The criteria to be an examiner is below.

must be holders of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with Basic, Morse Code (5 wpm) and Advanced qualifications, and be 18 years of age or older. If you meet this criteria and are interested please contact the club executive.

### 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary QSL Cards

QSL cards for the special call signs have been ordered and are on their way. There were several hundred QSOs made using the call signs from Field Day until the end of the conference.

Once the cards have arrived, we like to have volunteers help with the completion of the cards from the logs submitted. We can use the activity to review the use of the QSL Bureau both incoming and going. We have already had inquiries as to when QSL cards would be sent out from the contacts made.

As an aside, the cards were ordered from [www.ux5uqsl.com](http://www.ux5uqsl.com) (Gennady Treus UX5UO) an enterprising ham living in war torn Kyiv, Ukraine. Gennady creates and ships QSL card worldwide and has shipped cards for more than 21,900 call signs as of September 2023. Check him out for your own QSL card needs.



HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
90TH CELEBRATION & GALA



**VC1933 VC1HARC90**

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club (H.A.R.C.), VE1FQ, has a long history dating back to its inception in 1933 and is one of the oldest amateur radio clubs in Canada.



**VC1933** ☐

**VC1HARC90** ☐



TNX PSE QSL

Call	Date	Frequency	UTC	RST	Mode



Jeremy, VE1JHF and Keith Shepard over top of the tower getting ready to remove the vertical antenna

### STATION 50 TOWER WORK

A work party was called for Saturday September 30 to see about determining and rectifying the problem with the GP-6 dual band antenna on top of the main tower. If time permitted the CHA-250B HF vertical antenna (80 through 6M) would be mounted on the telephone pole. HRM EMO had a zoom boom delivered early Saturday morning for inspecting the main tower and doing the work at the top of the tower.

A safety briefing was done by Don Mosher, VE1DRM of HRM EMO before the start of the work. The ends of the twin sloper antenna were released and brought in to the foot of the tower to avoid the possibility of the zoom boom fouling on them. Keith Shepard of HRM and Jeremy, VE1JHF got into the bucket of the zoom boom and inspected the tower on the way up to the top of the tower where they opened the connection between the GP-6 dual band vertical and the down lead. Jeremy put the AA1500 antenna analyzer on the antenna tail and checked the SWR of the antenna and found it was very high. Then Jeremy put a 50 ohm dummy load on the down lead and Fraser, VE1WO and Ritchie, VE1RL checked the SWR with the AA520 antenna analyzer and found the SWR was very low proving the feed line and down lead were fine.

Previously we had a GP-15 tri band antenna and tail ready in case we needed to replace the GP-6 dual band vertical. We also as a replacement down lead prepared in case the down lead was bad. In this case the GP-6 dual band vertical needed to be replaced. Keith and Jeremy went higher in the zoom boom to release the antenna tail and get up to take the GP-6 dual band vertical off the mast over top of the tower. During this manoeuvring something went wrong on the zoom boom and Don, VE1DRM tried to correct it using manual control from the ground. They had to lower the zoom boom and reset it before they could go up to remove the antenna. When they got up to the antenna they found it was flopping around, obviously something had broken. They removed the antenna and lowered a tag line which was attached to the GP-15 tri band antenna and tail and raised the new antenna and placed it in position.

Jeremy fed the antenna tail down past the other antennas on the mast and attached it to the down lead. Fraser and Ritchie tested the antenna from the radio room and all 3 bands looked good. Jeremy then proceeded to arrange the tail and other antenna feed lines such that when the rotator was moved from end to end the cables did not catch on the top of the tower legs. Jeremy water proofed the tail to down lead connection and they lowered the zoom boom to the ground.

After a short rest and washroom break it was decided there was enough time left to put the CHA-250B HF vertical antenna up on the telephone pole. Previously we had determine the CHA-250B HF vertical antenna was not at Station 50 but was left on the HARC trailer after the 90<sup>th</sup> celebration. Ken, VE1PDL went and retrieved the antenna. Several people assembled the CHA-250B HF vertical antenna. Bill, VE1MR had installed a connector on a long piece of RG-213

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(Continued from page 7)

and attached it to the CHA-250B HF vertical antenna and waterproofed the connection. Ken had a mount manufactured to attach to the top of the telephone pole so Keith and Jeremy took the mounting assembly up in the zoom boom and attached it to the top of the telephone pole. Then they lowered the zoom boom and took the antenna up and attached it on the mount. On the way down they attached the feed line to the pole. It was decided that the feed line would be run to the building in an underground conduit which would be done at a later date.

With time running out and some people leaving it was decided that there was neither the time nor personnel to do anything with the satellite antennas. The ends of the twin sloper were raised back into position and that was a wrap of the Saturday work party. Some recommendations came out of the session such as the club needed to get a long tag line (for lowering and raising equipment and tools on a tower), a longer pole for the building end of the twin sloper to help getting it past the roof corner as well as some other things to consider that would facilitate other tower jobs.

We would like to thank all those who took part in both the tower work. Those attending were Keith Sheppard, Don, VE1DRM, Bill, VE1MR, Wayne, VE1WPH, Ritchie, VE1RL, John, VE1BIR, Fraser, VE1WO, Ken, VE1PDL, Jeremy, VE1JHF, Brandon, VE1BMF, Darroch, VE1DF, Bill, VE1WPS. We apologize if we left anyone out.



Ground crew observing work up the tower and taking breaks as the work progressed.

Jeremy, VE1JHf in the zoom boom getting the antenna cables tied up to prevent snags on the tower legs as the antennas rotate.

### Builders Sessions

We would like to start up the builders' sessions in November. I am looking for ideas and direction. Here are some questions to consider.

- 1 – Are you interested in attending Builders session which helps you develop hands-on skills?
- 2 – Do you want to learn how the components of your station work, i.e., theory in addition to building?
- 3 – Are there any pet projects that you have been considering or would like to try?
- 4 – What is the best day or evening for YOU to attend?

HRM EMO has approached the club to see whether we would consider putting on a Builders Session to design, construct and test approximately a dozen 2m portable antennas. EMO would provide the parts and club members would construct the antennas. There would be plenty of materials to build extra antennas for those who help in the construction. The time commitment would probably be one full day (6 hours).

The design selection has not been fixed but discussions are around building 2m Slim-Jim antennas from windowed ladder line and then in casing the antenna in 3/4" PVC water pipe. Many may remember these antennas from the early 2000's, available for purchase at the Flea Market. The antenna can also be used less the water pipe as a roll-up antenna.

If you are interested in attending the Builders Sessions or are interested in helping out with the EMO antenna build, please reach out via the [events@halifax-arc.org](mailto:events@halifax-arc.org) email address with name and contact details.

**144MHz (2m) Slim-Jim Aerial**  
Using just 1.5 metres of 450-ohm "ladder-line", this aerial is perfect for hotel rooms, portable use or even the corner of a bedroom!

